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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the message dated 19 March 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kabul regime addressed to you (A/46/119-S/22369), in which he has once again made allegations against the Government of Pakistan in the recent upsurge of fighting inside Afghanistan. I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that those charges are devoid of truth and are rejected as baseless.

The Kabul regime is in the habit of making unfounded accusations of Pakistani involvement each time it comes under military pressure from the Afghan Mujahideen. As is universally recognized, the conflict inside Afghanistan cannot be resolved without the establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people. All segments of Afghan society reject the present regime as illegal and as one that is responsible for the colossal tragedy suffered by Afghanistan for more than a decade.

The regime's tirade cannot hide the fact that the Afghan Mujahideen groups are militarily active, not only in Khost but throughout Afghanistan, and control almost the entire countryside. These areas frequently come under heavy attacks by the Kabul armed forces. The large number of refugees who have recently fled from Khost into Pakistan have reported 14 scud missile attacks since mid-March, in addition to aerial bombardment of the area, resulting in heavy civilian casualties.

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* A/46/50.

I should like to reiterate that the Government of Pakistan remains resolutely committed to a political settlement of the Afghan problem. It firmly believes that the centre-piece of an acceptable solution must necessarily be the transfer of power to a broad-based government, representing the will of the Afghan people, and to this end Pakistan will extend its cooperation to all initiatives taken in good faith, especially the peace efforts by Your Excellency.

Pakistan has a deep and abiding interest in the restoration of a peaceful, independent, sovereign, non-aligned and Islamic Afghanistan. We desire stability in our region, which has been disturbed for so long because of the festering conflict in Afghanistan. Also, we wish to see that the more than 3 million Afghan refugees, who have sought shelter on our soil, are able to return to their homeland voluntarily in safety and honour at the earliest possible moment.

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 29 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative